



1026th meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38th Ave. San Francisco

**Thalers
Joe Wargo**

**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
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Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Our guest speaker this month is *Joe Wargo* who will tell us about European Thalers. A must meeting for those interested in these large silver pieces of art!

1025th meeting- August 2001

Coin Photography – Phil Nordin

Phil Nordin gave us a fine tutorial on those aspects of photography of interest to numismatists. Specifically, he detailed much of the mechanics required for successful close up photography. Phil's expertise in the subject is impressive, as his award-winning work has been widely published. From his personal accumulation of camera equipment, ranging from inexpensive lens reversing rings to very specialized medical flash cameras, Phil demonstrated this fine art. He distributed a handout (copies of which are still available) explaining some of the optical theory that is relevant for the numismatic photographer. However, he deliberately avoided the topic of lighting as that is a subject unto itself. At the end of the presentation, *Jack Free* requested that Phil give us another presentation addressing close-up lighting. Phil agreed and we will schedule this in the near future.

2nd CSNA/PCNS Educational Symposium

Last month's *Bulletin* included the particulars for this upcoming event. If you are planning on attending please return the registration form so that pre-event planning may proceed.

LNS Annual Book Sale

The annual numismatic book auction of the Liberty Numismatic Society will held Tuesday, October 2 at the Millbrae Public Library. As always, an enormous selection of printed matter will be sold.

Exhibits

Ken Takahashi brought some of his coin photos. He told us of some of the special problems associated with photographing slabbed coins.

Cal Rogers brought a Lindbergh token and several chopped coins. One of these was unusual with its Japanese chopmarks.

Jack Free exhibited a pair of large (70+ mm) City of San Francisco Cable Car Centennial medals. These silver and bronze medals, manufactured at the Philadelphia mint are the prize of any Cable Car medal collector.

Paul Holtzmann brought a coin that "real numismatists don't buy" and an oxymoron. The former is a 50 million Turkish lire piece showing the Asio Otus owl. The eyes of the owl are genuine diamonds. The latter is a set of United Nations medals explaining nonverbal communication in five languages!

Stephen Huston also brought some coin photos from current and previous catalogs of his. He explained that the numerous steps of preparing photographs for a catalog are greatly reduced by his use of a digital scanner.

Michael Wehner brought some recent acquisitions from his recent trip to England and France. Among these were a high relief British bronze medal from 1840 protesting the corn monopoly and a modern restrike by the Monnaie de Paris of a medal celebrating the Arche de Triumphe.

Raffle

A 1958 copy of Atwood's catalog of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens with a starter set of transit tokens was won by *Frank Strazzarino*.

A PPIE so-called dollar (HK406) from the Louisiana Exposition was taken home by *Paul Holtzmann*.

The International Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Numismatics by R. Scott Carlson was selected by *Larry Reppeau*.

The Prison Photo Tickets of Oxford, Wisconsin, Sarah and Phil Nordin

In the late 1970's until at least 1984, Wisconsin prisons experimented with tickets, coupons and punchcards for use by inmates. The State Prison at Waupun is known to have issued different sets of tickets, all measuring 51mm x 23mm. Some tickets were denominated in increments from one cent to 1 dollar, while others were printed for specific uses, such as hobby orders from the prison canteen. Still others, stamped "Los Latinos", were sold by the Latin-American Cultural group within the prison and redeemed for soda. The intent was to give approved inmate groups some measure of control over certain "consumer goods", similar to the famous Mutual Welfare League at Sing Sing Prison in upstate New York.

Recently, a few tickets were identified from the Federal Correctional Institution at Oxford, Wisconsin. They measure 52mm x 26mm, and contain the annotation **F.C.I. – Oxford // Photo Ticket** in sans serif letters in black. A six-digit serial number appears at right. The border is in black. The back of the ticket is blank. Paper is salmon in color. Printer is identified as Elliott Ticket Co., New York City. These are the first tickets known from a Wisconsin federal facility. To our knowledge, they are described and illustrated here in a numismatic article for the first time.

According to a retired corrections officer at the Oxford facility, these tickets were purchased from the inmates' commissary fund for use in the visiting room, for the inmate to get a picture of his family. The officer went on to say that the tickets had to be discontinued because the inmates were using them for gambling.

